FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1899. Washington Office-1503 Pennsylvania Avenue

Telephone Calls. Business Office......238 | Editorial Rooms......86

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION. DAILY BY MAIL Daily, including Sunday, one year..... nday only, one year..... 2.00 WHEN FURNISHED BY AGENTS. Daily, per week, by carrier...... 15 cts Daily and Sunday, per week, by carrier 2 cts

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THE INDIANAPOLIS JOURNAL

Can be found at the following places: NEW YORK-Astor House.

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Southern Indiana Press Association. The semi-annual meeting of this association will be held at Seymour on Friday, March 24. The meeting will be of more than usual importance, and it is hoped the attendance will be large. The association is not political, but includes editors and publishers of all papers south of the old National road. Further information can be had by addressing J. W. Cockrum, President, Oakland City, or J. R. Simpson, Sec-

Many valuable municipal franchises were given away before city authorities discovered that they had great money value. County commissioners should not repeat this

Aside from the silver issue Mr. Watterson's Democratic platform would meet the approval of most voters of Populistic tendencies. It is generally against existing con-

The partisan cry of "beef" has not preper cent. of the recruits of the regular army being from the mustered-out volunteer regi-

Mayor Harrison is making his canvass rather upon a nonpartisan basis in Chicago than upon a Democratic. He does this because he must receive Republican votes or be defeated.

Internal revenue officers say the increased tax on beer has not reduced consumption. The same is true of tobacco, upon which the tax has been increased relatively more

The appointment of a committee to look after the future of the street-railway franto be an assumption on its part that the court will not interfere with a perpetual in-

When his supporters in Montana are charged by other supporters with paying high as \$50,000 for a vote to elect one of them to the United States Senate, Mr. Bryan should not regard a \$10 dinner as

Without questioning the fitness of any the man selected by General knowledge and capacity would make an ideal secretary of war because he is a soldier-General Porter.

Ex-Representative Outhwaite, of Ohio, If Bryan is renominated they will use every effort to defeat him

When a corporation like the Copper-smeltassault upon such combinations.

The lavish distribution by the United proved to be very expensive and should be curtailed as rapidly as possible. Our pledge to pacify the island and establish stable government does not bind us to feed the people for an indefinite period.

It is announced that the purpose of the friends of General Miles in keeping him bedacy of President McKinley and to cripple Colorel Bryan. This must mean that they propose to present him as a Republican or Democrat, as the occasion may invite,

A citizens' committee at Washington representing a proposed national jubilee celebration called on the secretary of war a day or two ago to urge that Admiral Dewey might be recalled in order that he might figure as an attraction. Some people have strange ideas of public interests and duties.

colonial policy of the United States said: nerships have no charters to forfeit they are hostility to our mother land when we were called upon to be a stepmother to several without interfering with private rights. For orphan islands." Very well; as the relation | example, if a merchant or a hotel keeper was not of our seeking we should endeavor to discharge its duties conscientiously.

It looks as if an important and perhaps decisive battle may occur in the Philippines soon. Aguinaldo has announced his intention of taking Manila within twenty days, and at last accounts General Otis was strengthening his lines and making new dispositions of troops. If one side does not attack soon the other probably will and bring on a fight that will end the war.

If the reports can be relied upon, there elect Clark, of Montana, shall be contested on the ground of bribery. Mr. Daly, another silver-mine owner, claims to have the evidence to prove that the Republicans who elected Mr. Clark were hired to do so. There was a report that Mr. Daly had been induced to let Mr. Clark alone, but now it is given out that he is anxious to go on the Republicans in the Senate will give a

level, making the construction of electric of such lines will greatly increase during the next few decades there can be no doubt, and county commissioners should be made to understand that the franchises are valuable. In disposing of them they should either will insure a fair equivalent for what is

FATAL TO THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

There is good reason to believe that the toward the gold Democrats is deplored by a large body of party men who voted for Mr. Bryan in 1896 for the sake of regularity. They did not then accept the 16-to-1 heresy, and they are farther from acceptance today than they were in the summer of 1896 They have been hoping that the party leaders would get together on some basis which would retire the silver question at the 16-to-1 ratio to the rear or place bimetallism upon a ratio to be determined by a Democratic Congress, as has been advocated by the ed itor of the New York Journal. Most of the gold Democrats would like to rejoin the party bearing the old name, but they wil not do it if the free silver and Populism of the Chicago platform are to be the cardinal features of the party faith in 1900. They will be angered and driven farther away by the dictatorial and offensive attitude which Colonel Bryan assumed toward Mr. Bel mont. Many of those Democrats who voted for Mr. Bryan and his platform against their better judgment will also be alienated by the arrogance of Colonel Bryan and Chairman Jones. They see that it is absurd to make another campaign upon the Chieago platform. They see that whatever doubts there might have been as to the results of a reaffirmation of the gold standard have been scattered by the unanswerable logic of the past two years.

been doing this because they see that the owners' cause. Perhaps Mr. Bryan knows and, having to choose between the Populism of Bryan and a candidate for President who stands for financial confidence, many who not vote for him in 1900.

CAN TRUSTS BE SUPPRESSED?

ple think should be suppressed but which of ideas hostile to present conditions. When cannot be reached by law. The absorption it was proposed that free coinage of silver and consolidation of railroads, the competi- | should be made the feature of the occasion, tion of incorporated capital with individual | the Socialists and others objected. They capital, the competition of machine labor with hand labor, that of department stores with separate stores-these and many other phases of modern business are condemned by many persons, but cannot be prevented chise, by the Commercial Club, would seem by legislation. It is doubtful if trusts can be. They can be regulated, but probably not suppressed. They certainly cannot be unless their purpose is opposed to public policy or such as the law will not tolerate. Trusts are not inherently and necessarily wrong any more than corporations are, and while some are foolish enough to denounce all corporations, sensible people know the modern world could not get along without them. Even the ancient world had its monopolies and its combinations of greed and of capital. In the year of our Lord 473 the Emperor Zeno issued an edict directed to the pretorian prefect of Constantinople,

We command that no one may presume to exercise a monopoly of any kind of clothing, or of fish, or of any other thing serving for food, or for any other use, whatever the community at large as to the people who its nature may be, either of his own aualready procured, or under an imperial decree, or under a rescript signed by our agree in unlawful meetings that different kinds of merchandise may not be sold at a less price than they have agreed upon trusts are not formed, as the Journal pointamong themselves. Workmen and contractors for buildings, and all who practice are strictly prohibited from agreeing together that no one may complete a work contracted for by another, or that a person | the consent of the owners of factories and work from finishing it. Full liberty is given to any one to finish a work begun and abandoned by another, without apprehension of loss, and to denounce all acts of this kind without cost. And if any one shall pre- | ized at figures far above their actual value sume to practice a monopoly, let his property be forfeited and himself condemned to perpetual exile. And in regard to the principies of other professions, if they shall venture in the future to fix a price upon by agreements not to sell at a lower price, let them be condemned to pay forty pounds

turies since have been. Under the English common law combinations in restraint of prices have always been unlawful, and in as far as a trust aims at these ends or actually accomplishes them it can be reached under common law. It is doubtful if statutory legislation can add materially to this remedy. A corporation which enters into a combination to prevent competition or control prices commits a crime against of the original owners. public policy for which its charter may be A speaker at a New York club on the | forfeited, but as private concerns and partis able to purchase all the stores or all the common management to prevent competibusiness throughout the State or Nation? It is difficult to say where the rights of the individual end and those of the public begin. It is undoubtedly true that a trust or combination of manufacturers or business men | can face the villain and the audience at is not always formed for the purpose of the same time." fleecing the public, but sometimes to protect those engaged in any particular business or manufacture from the more unscrupulous members of that business or manufacture. Sometimes also it is done to prevent overproduction and to increase consumption by furnishing the public a better

Perhaps it would have been better to have exhausted the common-law remedy against unlawful combinations of capital before resorting to legislation. Thus far such legislation has not been effective. As far as national legislation is concerned it can only apply to interstate relations and to combi-The increasing number of applications for | nations to prevent competition or increase

franchises. A large portion of Indiana, and and interstate commerce, but not concernthe most thickly populated, is comparatively | ing strictly state matters. On the other hand, state laws have not proved effective lines comparatively easy. That the number | An anti-trust law passed in Texas was held unconstitutional by the United States District Court in 1897. The court said:

If there is any one thing evident from careful study of the act it is that it is almee to favor the agricultural class, and is against the merchant and mechanic, and all the others, without either reason or justice. This law that deprives the citizen of all his rights of contract, and that seeks to divide citizens, not exactly by the calling they follow, but by the source of the property they hold, and exempts 80 per cent. of them from the penalties it visits upon the remainder, is not sustained by any good reason or excuse, is not just, is utterly without support in law and can have no just purpose, is vicious class legislation, depriving the citizen of his constitutional right

It is pretty safe to say that no anti-trust law framed on such lines will stand. A law passed in Georgia in 1897 was more nearly in conformity with the spirit of common law, but it has not been in force long enough to judge of its operation and has not yet been passed upon by the courts. The Indiana law of 1897 is loosely drawn and will probably be found ineffective. Thus far no state legislation on the subject has added anything to the common-law remedy. Under that remedy the charter of every corporation in the United States which has entered a trust could be forfeited.

TWO PERILOUS DINNERS. The dinners on Jefferson's birthday, in New York, may prove the undoing of Col Bryan. He openly declined to dine with the Democratic club of which Mr. Croker is the head, and for which Mr. Perry Belmont issued the invitations. The reason assigned for Colonel Bryan's refusal is that Mr. Belmont and his associates did not support the silver heresy and its candidate in 1896. If Mr. Belmont, for himself and his friends, had declared a conversion to 16 to 1, Col. Bryan would have accepted the invitation, and his conscience would not have been The only hope of the Democratic party was | troubled because Tammany paid ten dollars n the getting together of its factions upon | for the dinner he ate. Besides, Colonel a platform which would ignore the issues | Bryan inferred that 16 to 1 and the rest of out in the hotel in places separated by a mans, the Harrisons, the Crokers, and, it for discussion at the banquet. This is bemay safely be said, the conservative leaders | cause he does not agree with Mr. Belmont's in Indiana, have been hoping and laboring opinion that sufficient themes are suggested to adjust the differences of 1896 so that the by the teachings of Thomas Jefferson withparty might act together in 1900. They have out devoting speeches to the silver-mine party must win voters to carry the country, | now that all that Jefferson wrote upon the and that ten voters will be lost where one | coinage question advocated a ratio for will be gained for the heresies of the Chi- | coinage based upon the mercantile values cago platform. In 1896 the Bryan ticket had of the two metals, and that adhesion to the entire Populist vote, and it had some Jefferson's opinion would now make the Republicans who have since seen the folly | ratio 33 to 1, instead of 16 to 1. In short, it of 16 to 1. They cannot win a Republican is Bryanism, not Jeffersonism, that Colonel to silverism, there are no Populists to win, | Bryan wishes to promulgate wherever he

There is said to be trouble about the dollar dinner. Those who are behind the movevoted for Bryan in 1896 for party's sake will | ment held a meeting on Sunday. All who assembled were opposed to Tammany, but the promoters. The labor element in the move-There are many things which many peo- | ment are Socialists and men with all sorts were willing to have Mr. Bryan invited, but silver politics were not eschewed, this element would bolt and organize a 50-cent dinner. An angry debate followed, but the labor men prevailed. The \$1 banquet will be as anti-silver as the \$10 banquet. Colonel Bryan is invited, and with him, Governor Pingree, Mayor Jones, of Toledo (Socialist), and others who hold views allied to socialism. If Colonel Bryan accepts the \$1 invitation under the conditions imposed he will appear as preferring to associate on public occasions with agitators and Socialists, who have not been Democrats, rather than with men who have always been Democrats and | there was no sign of fire. would be now if the Democratic national teaching of Thomas Jefferson.

As Attorney General Griggs says, "The thority or under a rescript of an Emperor | are induced to put their money into the Majesty; nor may any persons combine or | New York telegram calls attention to this other professions, and contractors for baths | ket, but rather to sell the stock and bonds issued by the promoters who have secured Manufacturers have sold their plants at large prices. The plants have been capital--at figures upon which dividends cannot be earned. These stocks have been put upon the market and are now the basis of extheir merchandise and to bind themselves | tensive gambling. That is, those who buy them do not intend to hold them as an investment, but expect to make something by It is fair to assume that this edict, issued | further advances and to sell out before the 1,500 years ago, was no more effective in decline comes. In Wall street no reputable preventing combinations of greed and capi- dealer buys and sells such stocks, but cusa craze which has been worked up by promoters. London has been having something trade or to prevent competition or control like the same craze in trading in "industrials." In London, a traveling circus for which the proprietor asked \$1,250,000 has been capitalized for \$3,500,000 and the stock put upon the market and sold. When this speculation shall have had its run most of the industries which have been put into "combines" or trusts will fall into the hands

BUBBLES IN THE AIR.

What She Meant.

"The idea of her having the nerve to claim she first saw the light in 1878." "I would not judge her too harshly. Perhaps she meant the arc light."

Tears of Men.

"How heart-rending," said Romance, "it "Yes," retorted Realism, "it is. It is a

pretty sure sign that the idiot is drunk." An Advantage. "She is such a two-faced thing!" "How fortunate!" said the person versed in the subtleties of the dramatic art. "She

Concerning a Few Husbands. The Countess-My first husband was self-made man. And you-you -The Count (defiantly)-And I am a self-

The blow had fallen. "Corporations are dangerous enemies of demagogue of dollar-banquet fame. Yes, indeed! Farmers should avoid granges, cooperative plans for cultivating the sugar beet, organizations of turnpike companies for the purpose of building good roads and everything like that! Yes, sir, "corpora-

tions are dangerous enemies of the farmer." Aguinaldo has stated that he intends

THE DAILY JOURNAL roads shows the prospective value of such | Congress can legislate regarding imports | He has had just little enough experience with long-distance telephones to still be of the opinion that talk is cheap.

THE WINDSOR HOTEL FIRE.

A Mystery as to Its Cause-May Have

Been Incendiary.

Letter in Philadelphia Press. There are some strangely inconsistent statements made upon good authority which add to the mystery, and which, it must be said, give some plausibility to the theory that the fire was nothing less than the most horrible attempt at arson the city has known, excepting, perhaps, in some of the tenement houses upon the East Side.

Arson in tenement districts, however, has of life, liberty and property without due been committed for no other purpose than process of law, contrary to the law of the to get insurance. If it were the cause of the destruction of the Windsor Hotel the purpose was beyond any doubt robbery. The guests at the hotel were to a considerable extent permanent ones. They were wealthy people, and it has always been believed that in no other hotel in New York was there more jewelry or other precious things kept in the guests' rooms than was the case at the Windsor. It has been a favorite place for the hotel thief, although very seldom have robberies of that kind resulted in much loss to the guests there.

The inconsistent things that can be testified to by direct evidence before the coroner's jury or any legislative investigating committee are, first of all, the conflicting

stories as to the discovery of the fire. A waiter of good repute, speaking from personal knowledge, says that a guest, carelessly throwing a lighted match aside, thereby set fire to the lace curtain, and the waiter was unable to check the flames, which spread with swiftness to all the drapery, so that in two or three moments the room was on fire. Thereupon he went to the office, one floor below, to give the alarm. But before this had happened Miss Helen Gould's butler had observed smoke coming from the roof of the building near the flagstaff, and it is reported by the department that others saw smoke issuing from another part of the roof, some distance away from the spot where the butler first discovered it. There seems to be no mistake about the testimony of the waiter and that of Miss Gould's butler, and, unless there be error, the two statements can only be reconciled on the assumption that by the strangest and most awful of coincidences two fires broke

That one of which the waiter speaks was careless accident; the other may have been accidental, but there grows a fear that it was intentional. Guests in the hotel through their experi-

ence confirm, so far as may be, this apparently conflicting testimony. Those who were upon the upper floors discovered fire before anyone on the office floor had heard of it; and, in fact, the first alarm brought to the office of fire upon the upper floor was regarded as a false one. On the second floor guests in a moment almost after the first alarm of fire found the corridors full of smoke. H. B. Farrington, for instance, an old-time merchant of New York, who, with his family occupied rooms on the floor over the office, was in the lobby of the hotel looking at the St. Patrick's Society procession. He heard someone say that the building was afire, and went to his room to tell his daughter that it might be well to pack the trunks so as to be ready to move out in case the alarm were correct. Mr. Farrington then stepped out into the corridor, and in a moment saw that it was full of smoke and heard the crackling of flame. He had no more than lime enough to urge his daughter to come with him at once and they escaped with their lives and the clothing that they wore. That is also the experience of Mr. Gunter, the novelist. These and other guests who had rooms upon the lower floors were persuaded that the smoke and flame came from fire that was near by. But on the floors above them, until the two uppermost stories were reached, there seemed to be for the time being no fire, although the smell of smoke was getting strong, so that, according to the best testimony now obtainable. the middle stories of the hotel were between two fires, one coming up from the floor below, another coming down from the floors above. If strict inquiry proves that this testimony is correct, then it will be established that two fires began in the hotel, one near the roof and another on the first floor, within a few moments of one another Many witnesses can be called who will testify that they saw one of the strangest spectacles ever witnessed at a fire in this

The fire was rising from the roof with an intensity that almost suggested saturation of the wood with oil or other inflammable material. The expert firemen knew when they saw those flames that the building was doomed. But in addition to this from the southeast corner window on the first floor flames were shooting, whereas above that window until the sixth floor was reached The only explanation that was possible in the excitement that this spectacle caused convention had not ignored the financial was that there might have been an air shaft or elevator shaft at that corner of the hotel, down which the flames from the roof

came. This, however, did not explain why fire did not appear at the windows of the ntermediate floors. It seems, too, as though fire broke out at different places near the roof. This might be explained upon the theory that what was at first the greater fire had been started between the ceiling and the roof, had been smoldering some time and at last had broken out with great violence at different

The testimony of some of the guests indicates that strange men were upon the upper floors who seemed to be not at all alarmed by the fire, and the capture of one thief who must have been in the hotel at the time the fire broke out tends to confirm the suspicion that the roof fire was started by men who had robbery in mind. They chose an auspicious moment.

St. Patrick's day procession was passing the hotel just as robbers knew it would pass. at about 3 o'clock. All the servants in the hotel were interested in that street display. Many of them were on the roof and at the windows were many more. That was a moment when a felon would find it easy to carry out his felony undetected. If this surmise is correct it would explain the swiftness with which the roof fire de-

veloped, but it does not explain the amazing coincidence of a fire in the cafe upon the first floor unless the guest who threw the lighted match into the lace curtain was himself one of the conspirators. It has not yet been learned who that guest was, perhaps it may never be known. It is necessary to learn the origin of this fire before legislation or municipal ordinances can be adopted, because, if the theory of arson or of a double outbreak of fire be correct, that does much to mitigate the criticism of the Windsor Hotel as a fire

Some criticism has been made of Eldridge T. Gerry because he, as owner of the hotel, did not put on more fire escapes. But the department says that the law had been perfectly complied with, and it is doubtful whether any larger number of fire escapes would have caused the loss of life to be less. Besides, if the fire was set in several places near the roof and stimulated by oil or other inflammable material, that would explain the swiftness with which it spread Then, too, the parade on the avenue in front of the hotel not only made a swift alarming impossible, but made it difficult for the firemen to get to the hotel until long after the flames were beyond control. This made a combination of circumstances which explains what appears to be the swift destruction of this building

The firemen say that if there had been only the fire in the cafe to contend with it would have been mastered, or at least would have been hindered long enough for every person in the hotel to get out safely, The fire has caused much covert criti ism of several unmentioned hotels in this city. They are buildings constructed at the time the Windsor was built or before, and are therefore, so far as construction is concerned, similar to that building. But the fire department knows that in some of

been swiftly put out. The one hotel which is, perhaps, more in the minds of the community when fires and the fire was put out without the guests knowing their danger.

The fire department is really as much concerned over the lofty so-called fire-proof buildings that house almost innumerable tenants in the daytime or guests at night as it is over the great hotels of earlier construction, before the rigid building laws now in force had been adopted. Smoke is as great a peril as flame, and the problem is how to reach the upper stories that are so far beyond the carrying power of the

Sherman's Characteristics. Washington Special.

John Sherman, in his life of three-quarters of a century, has wen an enduring place in the history of his country. He has lived in a great period and played a great part. He is not a magnetic man; he has not been popular, like Clay or Blaine; his triumphs and successes are those of the intellect purely and owe nothing to sentiment. Tall, spare, electric-railway franchises over country the market price of some imported article. walking right into Manila one of these days. almost to emaciation, ascetic in counte-

nance, rarely smiling, never laughing; with thin, straight-cut lips and cold blue eyes; no orator, but the embodiment of common sense in public affairs; unswayed by his own or other men's emotions, he has the respect of men, though not their love. He was never called Jack Sherman in his life. He has never been slapped on the back nor has he ever slapped any other man on the back. No man ever put his arms about him, as Garfield's intimates used to do, nor has he ever put his arms about other men, as Blaine did. He would not sit in other men's laps. as Stephen A. Douglas used to do. So far he has gone through his long and successful life self-poised, confident, assured of himself and realizing every ambition of his life save one. In this respect he stands in the class of Webster, Clay, Cass, Seward, Chase, Douglas, Morton, Conkling and Blaine. John Sherman's place in history will be but little smaller for that failure and larger than that of some who reached the height he

ENGLAND'S TAX SYSTEM. Reaction Against Burdens of Beath

Duties and Income Taxes.

failed to attain.

Practically, then, customs and excise have been left unchanged for twenty years. The changes, where considerable, have been more in the nature of alterations in the form of the duty, such as the substitution of a beer for malt duty, and any real increase is balanced by a subsequent repeal or reduction, either of the particular duty imposed or of some other indirect tax. With the death duties and the income tax the case is entirely different. The death duties have been subject to so many changes that it would be almost hopeless to follow them, but the scale has always been ascending and the final effect is clear: The proceeds of the death duties

now are (including £4,263,000 for local account)£15,363,000

The increase is not far short of 200 per A certain part of the increase is no doubt due to the wider extension of duties so as to put the duties on real property on the same footing as duties on personal property, but the effect is none the

In 1877-78 they were...... 5,590,000

less to place greater stress on this mode of raising revenue than was the case twenty years ago, while customs and excise remain in the aggregate unchanged. The facts as to the income tax are much the same. The rate in 1877-78 was 3d per pound and it now is 8d. The yield in 1877-78 was £5,800,000, and now £17,200,000, an increase of £11,400,000 or 200 per cent. There is also this further peculiarity: The yield of 1 penny in 1877-78 was just over £1,900,000. In spite of all the increase of wealth in the interval the yield is now £2,150,000 only. an increase of barely 10 per cent. The explanation is that the area of the tax has been diminished by exemptions and abatements, so that the percentage of growth on the incomes which do not get the benefit of exemptions and abatements is even greater than appears on the surface. What these exemptions and abatements amount to is partly, though not wholly, seen upon a comparison of the gross income returned with the income which we find to be really paying duty when we multiply the yield of the tax by thirty, the number of eight-pences Making such a comparison, we find that the gross income returned by the last account is £700,000,000, but the income really paying duty is £516,000,000 only. When it is considered, moreover, that the gross income returned is probably lessened by the effect of the exemptions in preventing some income being returned at all, still better idea is obtained of the effect of these exemptions and abatements in whittling away the tax and throwing a greater burden on those who do pay. A sevenpence rate without exemptions and abate-

ments would be almost as productive as the eight-pence rate with them. The history of our taxation during the last twenty years thus stands out in relief. Notwithstanding the ordinary growth of the revenue, which has been considerable, and the extraordinary growth of postoffice revenue, which has covered, and more than covered, the extraordinary growth of outlay in that direction, it has been needful to find about £20,000,000 of new resources, and these resources have been found exclusivey in the death duties and the income tax. What used to be the great pillars of the revenue, the customs and excise, which still bring in nearly £60,000,000 of money, have not conributed in any way to the help of the government with new resources all these years, when such heavy calls have been made upon it. The reason of this and the expediencey of the financial arrangements which have thus come to be established, and what remedies, if any, should be applied, are therefore topics which demand prima facie a little consideration.

THE RIVAL BELMONTS. One Opposes Bryan and the Other Is His Sincère Friend.

The controversy over the Jefferson banquet in New York has driften into a rivalry between the two Belmont brothers, Perry and Oliver Hazzard Perry Belmont. The former is a Democratic wheelhorse, and has found it possible to associate with both the four hundred of upper Fifth avenue and the politicians of Tammany Hall and keep a good average. In his social connections he is very select and exclusive. In his political affiliations he is a true Democrat. Perry Belmont has served three terms in Congress, Delicate Operation Performed by a and has been minister to Spain, hopes to be Governor of the State of New York, and is president of the Croker Democratic Club. Oliver Hazzard Perry Belmont until recenty has been a man of pleasure. He was educated at the Naval Academy, resigned his commission after a few years' service at sea as a ensign, was divorced from his wife, devoted himself to polo, yachting and other sports, became involved in the matrimonial difficulties of William K. Vanderbilt and married the divorcee. He has recently taken to politics and has started a newspaper for the purpose of belaboring the trusts, monopolies and the money power, He is an ardent Bryanite, and his tendency to Populism ought to make August Beimont, his venerable father, who for forty years was the representative of the Rothschilds in this country, roll over in his grave from anguish. Since his marriage August, the eldest and the present head of the family. and Perry, who is a partner in the banking firm, have dissolved all relations with their erring brother and cut him dead in the street, at the club or wherever they meet. This is not because he was the man in the Vanderbilt divorce case, but because he allows his wife to accept alimony from her former husband. In other words, they accuse him of living on Mr. Vanderbilt's

Perry Belmont is one of the committee in charge of the banquet that is to be given by the Democratic Club on Jefferson's birthday and will preside over that notable gathering. Oliver, his brother, has resigned from the Democratic Club and started a movement for a rival dinner on the Jeffersonian simplicity plan, with Bryan as the guest of honor. He invites to this dinner every Democrat who can raise \$1 to pay for a ticket, and the speakers will talk against expansion and in favor of free sil-

This fraternal rivalry is making a good deal of talk in New York and reminds people of another affair which took place ten years ago, at the celebration of the centenary of the adoption of the Constitution of the United States. Hamilton Fish, ir. and the late Ward McAllister had a merry time over the invitation list and the programme of the banquet and ball. Mr. Mc-Allister wanted to confine the attendance to the descendants of people who lived in New York at the time the Constitution was adopted. Mr. Fish took a broader view and wanted to admit everybody of respectability who desired to attend. This was a matter of some importance, because Mrs. Astor, the acknowledged leader of the 400, was expected to lead the cotillon, and the broadgauge plan was to have President Harrison or Mayor Grant act as her partner. Mr Fish was victorious. The McAllister faction stayed away and made up for their loss of enjoyment by sarcastically referring to the function as "a Fish ball" and "a Fish dinner," and to those who attended as "the cod-Fish aristocracy.

Anti-Trust Laws.

New York Tribune. Laws which do not clearly define a crime the exercise of natural right without harm them fires have been discovered and have to anybody is a crime, are themselves a erime against the public. The price which it a blessing to all the next. An oil or sugar newspapers. The line was commenced some are discussed than any other has been dis- or rail combination which should now de- two years ago, but all allusions to it were covered several times to be on fire, but there | mand the price by everybody known to be was no combination of circumstances which a blessing not long ago would indeed be can be no explaining away the railway now. made a swift spread of the flames possible, guilty of a crime. What law, what conceiv- Its value to Russia may be set forth in a Speaker?" Yet there are those who insist able device of words, can define what limit of supply or regulation of price is now and for years to come shall be against the publie welfare, and therefore a crime against the State? But this is the very essence of the problem which legislation against combinations has to solve.

Detroit Free Press. Washington had the same old row about those Mansfield "Cyrano" seats, the same old indignant letter-writers appeared in the newspapers, and the same old kickers dislocated their hip joints under different names.

that have followed King Richard every-

Bryan's Services.

where this season.

Kansas City Journal. In widening the breach in the Democratic publican party valuable service.

SOME "POPULAR" PLAYS.

Stage Immorality Laughed at Which in Real Life Is Tragic.

Kate Upson Clark, in the Independent. Those among us who have been enthusiastic upon the subject of "the elevation of the drama" have had a good deal to bear. Some of these people are genuinely good. They believe that the theater has "come to stay," and they are equally sure that it can be made an agent for righteosuness. All that is necessary, they affirm, is that only good actors and good plays sha'l be patronized. Thus the fittest will survive, and the pulpit and the religious press will secure a valuable ally.

This sounds plausible, and there are many considerations which support the theory. On the other hand, there are some pitfalls in

Thus, when it has come to be taken for granted that a certain actor will appear in nothing but the finest plays, you go to see him in a new one and find that its morals are dubious, or worse. Or when you think that a certain manager can be relied upon to present only chaste and elevating dramas you patronize him and discover that he is giving to the public those which are cor-

An insidious form of these "popular plays" is borrowed from the French. Burke says that one cannot indict a whole nation. Nevertheless, it may be affirmed that anything from the French in the lines of the drama or art or literature may well be regarded with suspicion. The Latin races have little in common with the sturdy morale of the Anglo-Saxon. The French play usually turns upon the supposably funny" adventures of some "model" husband, whose wife leaves him for a few days or weeks. During her absence the husband flirts with various young girls, or with wives whose husbands happen to be absent also. Thus situations are developed which in real life would fill hearts with disgust and bring blushes of shame to the cheek, but they are greeted, even in our best theaters. with shouts of laughter. If husbands and wives were to live in America as these plays represent them as living in France our Republic would be impossible and our religion would vanish. These sickening tragedies are advertised as "light comedies," "refined" and "sparkling." It has come to be thought that so long as there is nothing positively indecent in them they can do no harm. Yet many a coarse play which calls a spade a spade does less mischief than these "refined" presentations, in which loathsome vice plays the part of a merry and innocent Pantaloon and teaches those of the most sacred vows. It is true As to be hated needs but to be seen: But seen too oft, familiar with her face,

We first endure, then pity, then embrace." professed themselves surprised that their wives objected to courses which the husbands themselves considered harmless. "I only meant to have a little fun. If she had been willing to take it all as a joke it would have passed off without any fuss whatever.' Probably the wife had laughed at just such | a situation in a play and the man logically inferred that she would take the same thing in real life as lightly. Certain individuals who have lately figured

in a shameful criminal case and upon whose degenerate Leads decent people are heaping abuse were simply living out the morals of plays which have lately held the New York poards amid delighted applause-very likely from the identical ones who are now unsparing in their condemnation of these looselived men and women. But however they may receive the French

plays themselves, our pure, high-spirited American girls find as yet the morals of those plays intolerable in real life. This is as it should be. Such morals break hearts and ruin homes. Why should we endure that in a play which, if translated into everyday living, would be demoralizing? Wit is not funny when it attacks virtue. The French, with their declining population and political power, their debauched courts of justice and their dissolute literature, may enjoy any theatrical sin so long as it is gold plated with the captivating art which they know so well how to use. But we have more to lose than they. Let us hope that their plays will depart from our shores and never return. Some industrious statistician has made a

list of the plays of the last quarter of a century which have brought in upward of \$1,000,000 each. They are fifteen in number. "Rip Van Winkle" leads with 5,000 performances, which have realized \$5,000,000. Then comes in their order "The Old Homestead, "The Silver King." "Shore Acres," 'Shaun Rhue." "The Two Orphans." Parlor Match," "The World," "The County Fair," "Adonis," "Hazel Kirke" and tals. By the printing of private postal cards "Hazel Kirke" "Shenandoah." Most of these plays have a wholesome moral tone, though a few of them are vulgar. Not one of them is, perhaps, what the moralist could term objectionable, and, happily, the typical French

play is nowhere in the list. MADE A NEW SCALP.

Chicago Special. With 4,500 bits of skin engrafted upon her nead, of which the patient herself supplied .800 pieces from different parts of her body, Mary Maloney, a West-side girl, is enjoying full health, while only a few months ago the doctors hardly gave her a chance for life. The other 2,700 pieces of skin were furnished by Miss Maloney's two sisters and a brother, and now a healthy, perspiring scalp takes the place of one torn from the girl's head by her hair becoming entangled in a revolving shaft. Dr. Frederick C. Schaefer performed the delicate operaion, which is the most extensive of its kind known to surgery. Miss Maloney was employed in a West-

side laundry, and one day a sudden gust of wind blew the girl's hair against a revolving shaft. As quick as a flash the girl was and acknowledge your letter and thank you drawn up by the hair, dashed against a heavy beam and then hurled to the floor. her skull laid bare from the eyes to the back of the neck. The girl presented a piteous appearance when Dr. Schaefer, who was hurriedly summoned, answered the call. Even the skin of the eyelids was removed nearly to the edges and the nasal bone was uncovered and broken. The left ear was one and the right one nearly torn off. Dr. Schaefer at once proceeded to control the hemorrhage and wrapped the head up in carbolic gauze. The scalp was secured, and after being thoroughly cleansed and the hair cut off, was placed in its position upon the skull. Then the nose and eyes were attended o and the right ear replaced with stitches

and handages. After a few days it became evident that he attempt to restore the scalp would be a failure and it was removed. The condition of the girl during this time was critical and there was little hope of saving her life. All energies were bent in this direction and she finally began to improve. Six weeks from the time of the accident Miss Maloney was pronounced out of immediate danger, and Dr. Schaefer decided upon skin grafting. The young woman had two brothers and a sister, who readily volunteered to supply the material necessary to the experiment. The first operation consisted of laying thirteen epidermal grafts from the sister's arm upon the eyelids of the patient, about an inch apart. This was followed by others, but not with the success that was looked for. The physician was frequently discouraged, but did not lose hope and endeavored to retrieve the loss by more vigorous grafting. So many of the grafts taken from her brothers and sister died that the doctor decided to take tissues from the patient's own person, and better results followed,

RUSSIA'S SECRET RAILROAD. Unknown to the World, 220 Miles Have Been Laid in Afghanistan. New York Journal.

The importance of the news of the completion of the Kerv-Kushk Railway and the aggressive railroad building of Russia in against the public, laws which declare that general cannot be overestimated. The fact that a railway 220 miles long, directly threatening Herat, Afghanistan, has been built, almost one might say secretly, is aswould be a crime to fix one year might be | tonishing in these days of telegraph and scoffed at in St. Petersburg. However, there word. Its head is only ninety-five miles that the President and the speaker of the from Herat, a town which is the key to both | House are not bitter enemies. Persia and Afghanistan. The English railread is about two hun-

> dred miles away from this important strategical position. When the Central Asian Railway was being built it was possible for Russia to explain that the line was as through Askabad, Merv, Bokhara and Samarcand, all fairly important trades centers. But what is the meaning of this branch line from Mery to Kushk? The railway touches no trade route, and must, therefore, be There was a time when British statesmen believed that it was impossible for

looked on as purely strategical. Russia to invade India owing to the physical difficulties in the way, Later on, however, as Russia gradually absorbed the central Asian khanates, and built her conquering railway, first across the Caucasus and then on this side of the Caspian, the party Mr. Bryan is not working under Re- | physical difficulties were not much heard of, though the barrier of the Hindu Kushk

"mountains 20,000 feet high," which were said to bar the road between Saraks and Herat, were proved by Lassar, as far back as 1882, to consist of a miserable row of hills with an easy pass, fit for vehicular traffic 500 feet only above the surrounding locality. There is now, therefore, no physical barrier before a Russian army marchng on Herat, and behind there is not, as heretofore, a long journey over inhospitable deserts, but an iron road.

The Russians, having brought their railway to the Afghan frontier-a possibility which even the alarmist, Charles Marvin, was shy of admitting fourteen years ago-British statesmen will have the task of considering what steps should be taken on their part, if, indeed, it is possible to take any direct steps. Would it not be possible better the British position strategically? The course which offers the least difficulty lies in the direction of consolidating the British position in Afghanistan. The ideal from a military point of view would be a perfectly friendly ameer, one railway exension from Peshawar through the Khyto Kabul, and another from Chaman to Candahar. There is, however, the quesion of expense, which is unanswerable. The ameer also would never allow a railway to Kabul. The idea may therefore set aside as impossible for the present. But the new viceroy is personally acquainted with Obdur Rahman, and might, perhaps, induce him to acquiesce in the Chaman-Candahar extension, which would certainly be a good set-off against the Rus-

POSTAL CARDS, NEW STYLE.

Effects of the Law Allowing Them to Be Printed by Individuals.

On Dec. 1, 1897, the Postoffice Department in Washington entered into a four years' contract for the printing of its postal cards. which are made at Piedmont, W. Va., and cost the government a fraction less than 24 cents a thousand. United States postal cards under the contract are of three kinds -the common card, three and a quarter by five and a half inches, the weight of which is six pounds three ounces per thousand the double postal card, containing a printed flap for an answer, the weight of which is exactly double that of the regular card, and the small, single postal card, which is three by five inches, the weight of which is five pounds per thousand. The contract price for hese last is 20 cents a thousand. For the

double or reply postals it is 47 cents a thou-

As, according to the estimates of the Postoffice Department, the previous contract was let at a bedrock price, and as the new contract was let at an even smaller price, whereby the government expects to save \$50,000 a year in printing, it might naturally be supposed that there was no very active demand among printers for a chance to print postal cards for profit, even if such activity was authorized by federal statute. Under a law passed by the last cards is no longer, so to speak, a government monopoly, and a number of printers who find business somewhat dull and whose office facilities are not overtaxed are going into the printing of private postal cards so-called. The size fixed by law is three and a quarter by five and a half inches, and the weight six pounds three ounces to the thousand. In color they must be white, cream, light gray or light buff, while on the face must be the words, "Private mailing card, authorized by act of Congress May 19, 1898." and in the upper right-hand corner must be left a space with the words, "Place a stamp

The occupation or business of the addressee briefly stated is allowable on the address side. The practical effect of this change is to increase the government's revenue and at the same time enlarge the dissemination of postal cards. The government's revenue is increased because the users of private postal cards pay the same price for circulating a card printed by themselves as they would pay for circulating a postal card printed by the government. The government makes the difference. The dissemination of postal cards is enlarged by the new law because previously it was necessary for printers to buy postal cards in bulk and then print upon them the advertisements desired, whereas under the new system inaugurated printers can print cards and the advertisements upon them simultaneously, with manifest advantage in symmetry and appearance, at least, for it is a well-known fact that postal cards as issued by the government are of cheap material and after having been exposed to atmospheric influences deteriorate so that printing does not take well upon them. The paper stock upon which government cards are printed is made of 69 per cent. of sulphite-bleached spruce fiber, of 22 per cent. of bleached poplar fiber and of 9 per cent, of English clay. The contract provides further that in no case is there to be a water finish to the paper, and the weight is regulated in pounds and ounces, and in no case are more than 25,000 postals to be delivered in one package to the government The estimated number of postal cards required by the government during the four years of the present contract is 2,075,000,000, of which 20,000,000 are double or reply pos-

the number manufactured for public use will be still further extended. A LETTER FROM KIPLING.

Received in Reply by a Little Pittsburg Girl.

Pittsburg News. During the most critical period of Rudyard Kipling's illness at the Hotel Grenoble the following letter was received by him: "6421 Kentucky avenue, East Liberty (Pittsburg). Pa.-Dear Mr. Kipling: I am very sorry to hear that you are sick. Lhope that you will get better very soon. I know when I am sick there is nothing so nice as to have an interesting letter come to me, so I thought you might like to get one. I am waiting to read those steries you spoke about in your letter to me last May. I had lots of fun reading it, it was written so fine. I know you have lots to do, and I fully appreciate your kindness in writing to a little

girl like me. Your little friend, To this the following answer was sent: "Hotel Grenoble, Feb. 27, 1899.—Dear Little —: Your very kind letter addressed to Mr. Kipling was received by Mrs. Kipling, and she is comforted to know that you love Mr. Kipling so much. She asks me to write

for it. Sincerely yours, "F. N. DOUBLEDAY." As the above shows, this is not the first time that little Miss K-- has written to Mr. Kipling, says the New York Sun. Last year, having followed with the liveliest interest the adventures of Mowgli and his four-footed friends through the jungle, and not being reconciled to the termination of the thrilling stories, she wrote Mr. Kipling telling him how much she enjoyed his 'Jungle Book" and asking him to write some more about the "little brother." put the letter into a tiny envelope and addressed it to the author's publisher in New York. For weeks the missive was busy following Mr. Kipling over land and sea until at length the postman delivered a letter with an English stamp upon it at No. 6421 Kentucky avenue, and on tearing open the envelope the delighted little girl found written in the tiniest of hands the following

letter, covering about one square inch of pearl-gray note paper: "The Elms, Rottingdean, Brighton, April 8, 1898.—Dear Miss K-: I can't write a letter as tiny as yours to me, but this is the

best I can do. "I have only just come back from Africa, where I have seen ostriches and monkeys and all sorts of things. That is why I did not answer your letter before. "I will see if I can't write some stories that will amuse you some day. "I am glad that you like what I have written about Mowgli. Very sincerely yours, "RUDYARD KIPLING."

The Ashe. of Love. Atchison Globe.

The women are telling of an Atchison man who treated his wife with indifference and cruelty in their early married life. They say he is now down on his knees blowing into the dead ashes of her love trying to revive a spark of affection for him. How women love to picture a man in such an attitude. It is probably the dream of every neglected wife that some day her husband will try to warm his hands like a frozen Cupid at the fires of her love, and will find only dead ashes there. There is enough dead ashes in the average woman's dreams to

macadamize a road. Cold Greeting.

Kansas City Journal. When Mr. McKinley arrived at Jekyl island Mr. Reed met him and said: "How do you do, Mr. President?" Whereupon Mr. McKinley replied: "How do you do, Mr.

Our geographical knowledge is expanding all the time. A week ago the country knew much commercial as military, for it ran as little about Jekyl island as, twelve months since, it knew about the Philippines, but now it is historic.

Sure Thing.

Discovered.

The \$1 Jeffersonites may not have as much to eat as the \$10 chaps, but each one of them can be depended upon to get in at

Kansas City Journal.

least \$9 worth of talk on the side, A Silver Dollar's Worth.

Mr. Bryan's admirers should see to it that there is more than 45 cents' worth of nourstill gladdens the heart of Sir Neville ishment in that \$1 dinner.